

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 27 DECEMBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1112-0-01 (ACCNO 0040) Status: (F) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
Name: CICHON, WALTER ALAN Date Status assigned: 15 Oct 1974

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	\$
Service	ARMY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	# #
Grade	E4	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BROWN	Weapon	#
Serial No		Height	68 in / 1.73 mtrs	Weapon No	#
Birth date	28 Aug 1946	Weight	157 lb / 71.1 kg	Duty pos	RIFLEMAN
Home State	NEW JERSEY	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: GROUND SITE  
UTM: 48PYA936924  
Lat/Long: 142322N / 1074322E  
Country: SOUTH VIETNAM  
Military Region: 2  
Mission Province: KON TUM  
(formerly): KONTUM  
Mission District: SA THAY  
Mission Date: 30 Mar 1968  
Mission Category: 3  
Local Analysis: Unknown location.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Dec 92, Oct 89, Aug 89, Aug 87  
Investigations: Sep 90, Jan 93  
Vessey Case: TWO  
Case type: DISCREPANCY

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type:	GRND	Serial:	\$
Crash Type:	None	Engine Type:	
Call Sign:	\$	1 Serial:	
Year:	\$	2 Serial:	

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

# = Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.  
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.  
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

CASE: 1112

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

4 December 1975

ON 30 MARCH 1968 SP4 WALTER A. CICHON WAS SERVING IN A RIFLE COMPANY IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HIS COMPANY CAME UNDER ENEMY FIRE WHILE ATTEMPTING TO SEIZE A HILL IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES (GC) YA 936 924. SP4 CICHON RECEIVED A HEAD WOUND, WAS EXAMINED, AND LEFT FOR DEAD AS HIS UNIT WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW UNDER ENEMY PRESSURE. A SUBSEQUENT SEARCH OF THE AREA WAS MADE, BUT HIS BODY WAS NOT FOUND. IN THIS SAME SEARCH OTHER BODIES WERE RECOVERED. ON 20 APRIL 1968 TWO NVA RALLIERS STATED THAT THEY HAD HEARD FROM FRIENDS THAT THEIR BATTALION HAD CAPTURED AN AMERICAN WITH A HEAD WOUND ON OR ABOUT 26 MARCH (1968).

THE RALLIERS GAVE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE POW WHICH CLOSELY MATCHED SP4 CICHON. THE RALLIERS STATED THAT THE PRISONER WAS TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL IN THE VICINITY OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM-LAOS-CAMBODIA (TRI-BORDER) AREA. (REF 1)

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITE INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THE TWO-PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION WAS GIVEN DETAILS OF THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. SP4 CICHON IS CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE STATUS OF PRESUMPTIVE FINDING OF DEATH, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

=== REFERENCES ===

4 December 1975

REFERENCES: <1> RPT, HQ 3D BN 8TH INF 2 MAY 1968 W/ATTACHMENTS. <2> FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT: CASE 1112 (21ST JFA) <3> 120555Z JANUARY 1991, DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1112. <4> PRIORITY CASE INVESTIGATION TEAM SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OF 11 AUGUST THROUGH 1 SEPTEMBER 1993.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

21 September 1978

A NEGOTIATION FOLDER FOR THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS PASSED TO THE SRV GOVERNMENT DURING THE WEEK OF 21 AUG 1978 FOR USE IN CASUALTY RESOLUTION.

CASE: 1112

4 December 1987

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO WALTER A. CICHON WAS PASSED BY JCRC ON 4 AUG 87 TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK PURSUANT TO AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN GENERAL VESSEY AND SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

20 September 1989

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO ALL INDIVIDUALS WAS PASSED BY JCRC TO THE VNOSMP DURING THE 28 - 30 AUGUST 1989 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

8 December 1989

DURING THE 29 - 30 OCT 89 MEETING IN HANOI, GEN VESSEY PASSED A NARRATIVE ON THIS CASE TO VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

16 November 1990

CASE PRESENTATION DISCUSSED WITH THE VNOSMP DURING THE 7-9 NOV 90 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

8 April 1991

DURING THE 19 - 23 MARCH 1991 TECHNICAL MEETING, THE U.S. TEAM PASSED TO THE VIETNAMESE ITS ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE JOINT INVESTIGATIONS ON CASE 1112.

18 December 1992

A CASE NARRATIVE ON CASE 1112 WAS PASSED TO THE VIETNAMESE DURING THE 10-11 DECEMBER 1992 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

3 February 1993

ON 12 JAN 93, DURING THE 21ST JFA, A JOINT US/SRV TEAM TRAVELLED TO YA LY VILLAGE, SA THAY DISTRICT, TO INTERVIEW TWO WITNESSES BELIEVED TO POSSESS INFORMATION GERMANE TO CASE 1112, MR. A DICH (A ZICH) AND MR. KA SALIN (AKA A MALIN). THE WITNESSES PROVIDED INFORMATION ON AN AMERICAN THAT WAS CAPTURED AFTER SUFFERING A SLIGHT HEAD WOUND DURING A MAJOR BATTLE SOMETIME DURING 1968. THE AMERICAN WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TURNED OVER TO UNIDENTIFIED OFFICIALS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PAVN B3 FRONT. NEITHER WITNESS COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF THE AMERICAN. THIS INFORMATION IS PROBABLY ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 1112 BASED ON DATE, LOCATION, AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS. THE TEAM LATER INTERVIEWED A THIRD WITNESS, MR.

CASE: 1112

NGUYEN THANH HUNG (NGUYEENX THANH HUNG), AT THE KONTUM PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE GUEST HOUSE, KONTUM TOWN ON THE AFTERNOON OF 12 JAN. THE WITNESS, A DOCTOR, INFORMED THE TEAM HE TREATED THREE WOUNDED AMERICANS AROUND MID TO LATE 1968. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THIS WITNESS COULD NOT BE CORRELATED TO ANY KNOWN CASE. ADDITIONALLLY, THE VNOSMP UNILATERALLY INTERVIEWED THREE POTENTIAL WITNESSES IN HANOI, ALL FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PAVN B3 FRONT, MR. VU DINH THUOC (VUX DINHJ THUOOC), MR. TAN (TAANS), AND MR. THU (THUJ). NONE OF THE THREE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE CASE. (REF 2)

27 September 1993

DURING THE 12TH JFA (28 NOVEMBER - 19 DECEMBER 1990) THE TEAM INTERVIEWED A WITNESS WHO INDICATED THAT HE RECEIVED CUSTODY OF A MALE CAUCASIAN AMERICAN WHO WAS WOUNDED IN THE HEAD AND HIP ON 3 APRIL 1968. ACCORDING TO THE WITNESS, HE FIRST OBSERVED THE AMERICAN APPROXIMATELY FIVE KILOMETERS WEST OF CHU TANG MOUNTAIN (NFI) WHERE HE RECEIVED CUSTODY OF THE MAN FROM ELEMENTS OF THE 307TH BATTALION, 62ND REGIMENT. THE WITNESS REPORTEDLY WALKED THE AMERICAN IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION FOR FIVE DAYS TO A POINT NEAR THE LAO-VIETNAM BORDER WHERE HE TURNED THE MAN OVER TO UNIDENTIFIED ELEMENTS OF THE B3 FRONT. (REF 3)

10 December 1993

FROM 18 THROUGH 23 AUG 93, THE PCIT INVESTIGATED CASE 1112 IN KONTUM AND DAC LAC PROVINCES. DURING THIS PERIOD, THE PCIT LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED THREE WITNESSES IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR THIS CASE. IN ADDITION, THREE MORE WITNESSES WERE INTERVIEWED BY THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM TEAM IN HANOI. THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THIS INVESTIGATION, NO NEW INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS CASE WAS OBTAINED. THE KONTUM PROVINCE TASK TEAM WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE ANY NEW FIRSTHAND OR HEARSAY WITNESSES KNOWLEDGEABLE OF ANY ASPECT OF THE CASE. VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS IN KONTUM DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF ANY SUPPORTING ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTATION. (REF 4)

## ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX756 MCN = 93253/13457 TOR = 932531109  
 PTTUZYUW RUEKJCS5782 2531110- --RUEALGX.  
 ZNR

## HEADER

P 101110Z SEP 93  
 FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
 INFO RUEALGX/SAFE  
 P 101050Z SEP 93  
 FM CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH  
 TO RUHQHQ/CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2// PRIORITY  
 INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//OCJCS-PW-MIA/J5//  
 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:RSA//  
 RUHQHQ/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//  
 RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHDC//  
 RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC//  
 RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC  
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/CCS/EAP/VLC//  
 BT  
 CONTROLS

SECTION 01 OF 09 BANGKOK TH 33089

0432 SEP 93

PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

/\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*/

## BODY

SUBJ: PRIORITY CASE INVESTIGATION TEAM REPORT: CASE  
 1112

REFS: A. DIA LEAD SHEET CASE 1112, 2 JUN 1993  
 B. JTF-FA CASE ASSESSMENT CASE 1112, 15 MAY 1993  
 C. CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH, 201257Z JAN 93  
 D. JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH, 120555Z JAN 91

1. BACKGROUND: FROM 19 THROUGH 23 AUGUST 1993, THE PRIORITY CASE INVESTIGATION TEAM (PCIT) SEARCHED FOR DOCUMENTATION AND EXPLORED LEADS ASSOCIATED WITH THREE CASES WHICH OCCURRED IN KONTUM PROVINCE. PCIT MEMBERS INCLUDED MSGT WILLIAM R. DEETER (U.S. TEAM LEADER), WILLIAM P. COUTURE (DIA ANALYST/LINGUIST), LTC PHAM TEO (PHAMJ TEOF) (VNOSMP TEAM LEADER), AND NGUYEN THE CONG (NGUYEENX THEES COONG) (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR). THIS REPORT CONTAINS THE DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO CASE 1112.

2. SUMMARY: FROM 18 THROUGH 23 AUGUST 1993, THE PCIT INVESTIGATED CASE 1112 IN KONTUM PROVINCE. DURING THIS PERIOD, THE PCIT LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED THREE WITNESSES

TASK DATED	
DATE REC'D	9/19/93
ACTION OFFICER	JCM
DISTR	ACT/INFD
DIRECTOR	
DEPUTY DIR.	
(SUPT)	
(POL/PLN)	
(RES/ANAL)	
(EXT REL)	
(REF/DOC)	

IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR THIS CASE. THE PCIT LOCATED ANOTHER WITNESS FOR THIS CASE IN DAC LAC PROVINCE. IN ADDITION, THREE MORE WITNESSES WERE INTERVIEWED BY THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM TEAM IN HANOI. THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THIS INVESTIGATION, NO NEW INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS CASE HAS OBTAINED. THE KONTUM PROVINCE TASK TEAM WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE ANY NEW FIRSTHAND OR HEARSAY WITNESSES KNOWLEDGEABLE OF ANY ASPECT OF THE CASE. VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS IN KONTUM DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF ANY SUPPORTING ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTATION. THERE IS NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THIS CASE TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION.

## 3. DETAILS:

A. ON 20 AUGUST 1993, THE JOINT U.S./VIETNAMESE PCIT HELD A THREE HOUR STRATEGY CONFERENCE WITH MEMBERS OF THE KONTUM PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE TO PRESENT INVESTIGATION REQUIREMENTS AND ESTABLISH A COURSE OF ACTION FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF CASES THAT OCCURRED WITHIN THE PROVINCE. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS, KONTUM CITY, AND WAS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PCIT AND KONTUM PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVES TRAN QUANG VINH (TRAN QUANG VINH), ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN KONTUM PROVINCE PEOPLES COMMITTEE; DANG DUC KHAM (DANGJ DWCS KHAM), TEAM LEADER; HOANG CANH DY (HOANG CANH ZY), PROVINCE MILITARY COMMAND REPRESENTATIVE; AND PROVINCE TEAM MEMBERS TRUONG ANH DUC (TRUONG ANH DWCS); NGUYEN THANH TRUNG (NGUYEENX THANH TRUNG); PHAN VAN BANG (PHAN VAWN BANG); AND TO NGOC LONG (TOO NGOCJ LONG). DURING THE MEETING, THE VIETNAMESE WERE PRESENTED WITH A LIST OF SOURCES WHICH, THE U.S. SIDE BELIEVED, COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION RELATIVE TO CASE 1112. THESE INCLUDED:

(1) ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS/UNITS:

- (A) PAVN 320TH DIVISION (DIV)
- (B) B3 FRONT
- (C) PAVN 10TH DIV
- (D) 320TH NVA REGIMENT (RGT)
- (E) K7 BATTALION (BN), 66TH RGT
- (F) FIELD HOSPITAL V84 (AKA V211, AKA V21)
- (G) MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION, GROUP

21 (POSSIBLY 1ST NVA DIV)

(II) COMMO-LIAISON STATION T-9

(I) COMPANY (CO) 187, 307TH BN

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 \*\*\*\*\*/

(2) THE VIETNAMESE WERE ALSO ASKED TO LOCATE AND MAKE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

(A) CUONG, THE FORMER DEPUTY POLITICAL COMMISSAR OF THE PAVN 66TH RGT.

(B) VIEN, THE FORMER COMMANDER OF THE 304TH LOCAL FORCE BN IN THE KONTUM AREA

(C) RE-INTERVIEW AMA LIN (AKA KA SA LIN)

(D) THE AUTHORS OF THE 1980 BOOK, "THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES IN THE AMERICAN STRUGGLE FOR THE NATIONAL SALVATION," THEY ARE:

- NGUYEN VAN MINH (NGUYEENX VAWN MINH)
- NGUYEN DINH THAO (NGUYEENX DINH THAOR)
- DOAN NHU KIEN (DOANF NHU KIEN)
- NGUYEN THIEN LUONG (NGUYEENX THIEEN LWONG)
- MAJOR GENERAL HOANG MINH THAO (HOANG MINH THAOR)
- BRIGADIER GENERAL DANG VU HIEP (DANGVJ VUX HIEEPJ)

B. THE VIETNAMESE AGREED TO FULLY SUPPORT EACH OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED BY THE PCIT, BUT STATED THE TASK OF LOCATING WARTIME DOCUMENTATION ASSOCIATED WITH THIS, OR ANY OTHER CASE, WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

C. ARCHIVAL: DURING THIS AND ALL PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION EFFORTS, NO DOCUMENTATION ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 1112 HAS EVER BEEN DISCOVERED. THE SUBJECT OF WARTIME DOCUMENTATION WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH KONTUM PROVINCE OFFICIALS, WHO WERE UNAWARE OF ANY EXISTING PROVINCIAL RECORDS PERTAINING TO U.S. SERVICEMEN KILLED OR CAPTURED DURING THE WAR. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT MAIN FORCE AND GUERRILLA UNITS THROUGHOUT THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WERE EXTREMELY MOBILE AND SELDOM REMAINED AT A FIXED LOCATION FOR EXTENDED PERIODS. GUERRILLA AND DISTRICT LEVEL COMBAT UNITS REFRAINED FROM KEEPING ANY SORT OF WRITTEN RECORDS WHICH, IF CAPTURED, COULD COMPROMISE THEIR OPERATIONS. MAIN FORCE COMBAT UNITS DID NOT REMAIN AT FIXED LOCATIONS LONG ENOUGH TO ESTABLISH PROPER STORAGE

FACILITIES NOR DID THEY HAVE THE MEANS OF TRANSPORTING DOCUMENTATION FROM PLACE TO PLACE. IT HAS, THEREFORE, STANDARD POLICY FOR THE MAIN FORCES TO BURN OR BURY ALL DOCUMENTATION PRIOR TO RELOCATING. THIS WAS DONE TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONAL SECURITY AND TO REDUCE THE LOGISTICAL BURDEN. DURING THESE FREQUENT RELOCATIONS, SOLDIERS WOULD CARRY ONLY THE BARE NECESSITIES REQUIRED TO FIGHT AND SURVIVE. VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS IN KONTUM PROVINCE EXPLAINED THAT, WHILE DOCUMENTATION IN THE FORM OF HAND WRITTEN NOTEBOOKS OR PERSONAL DIARIES MAY STILL EXIST, THEY WERE UNAWARE OF ANY WRITTEN WARTIME RECORDS WHICH MAKE REFERENCE TO MISSING AMERICANS. THEY WERE INFORMED OF THE JOINT U.S./VIETNAMESE DOCUMENTATION CENTER, WHICH OPENED IN HANOI IN APRIL OF 1993, AND PLEDGED TO FORWARD ANY APPLICABLE RECORDS THEY FOUND TO THIS FACILITY. DURING THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATIONS IN KONTUM, LTC PHAM TEO (VNOSMP PCIT TEAM LEADER) VISITED THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PAVN 10TH DIVISION AND DISCUSSED WARTIME DOCUMENTATION WITH THE DIVISION'S COMMANDER; HOWEVER, NO RECORDS PERTAINING TO U.S. SERVICEMEN KILLED OR CAPTURED DURING THE WAR WERE FOUND.

D. INTERVIEWS: THE KONTUM PROVINCE TEAM DETERMINED THAT TWO OF THE NINE INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED BY THE PCIT WERE RESIDENTS OF THE PROVINCE AND WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW. ONE ADDITIONAL WITNESS WAS LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED WHILE THE PCIT WAS CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS IN DAC LAC PROVINCE. THREE OTHER POTENTIAL WITNESSES FOR THIS CASE (REQUESTED IN REF A) WERE INTERVIEWED BY MEMBERS OF THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM IN HANOI. ADDITIONAL RESEARCH BY PROVINCE OFFICIALS INTO THE LOCATION OF THE REMAINING POTENTIAL WITNESSES DETERMINED THE FOLLOWING:

- DOAN NHU KIEN IS CURRENTLY WORKING AT THE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN HAI PHONG.

- MAJOR GENERAL HOANG MINH THAO CURRENTLY RESIDES IN HANOI.

- BRIGADIER GENERAL DANG VU HIEP CURRENTLY RESIDES IN

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 003 \*\*\*\*\*/  
HANOI.

- CUONG'S LOCATION WAS UNKNOWN.

(1) ON 21 AUGUST 1993 THE PCIT INTERVIEWED AMA LIN AT THE KONTUM PROVINCE PEOPLES COMMITTEE GUEST HOUSE, KONTUM CITY. LIN, A 50 YOA RESIDENT OF RANG COP HAMLET, MO RAY VILLAGE, SA THAY DISTRICT, KONTUM, PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(A) LIN REITERATED THE INFORMATION HE PROVIDED TO JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS DURING THE 12TH AND 21ST JOINT FIELD ACTIVITIES. HE REPEATED THE INFORMATION REGARDING HIS PARTICIPATION IN ESCORTING A CAPTURED AMERICAN WHO WAS LATER TURNED OVER TO PAVN B3 FRONT PERSONNEL. THE PRISONER HAD SUSTAINED A MINOR HEAD WOUND BUT REMAINED AMBULATORY THROUGHOUT THE JOURNEY. THE WOUND, WHICH WAS ALREADY BANDAGED, IN LIN'S ESTIMATION CONSISTED OF A TWO TO TWO AND ONE HALF INCH GASH IN THE LEFT TEMPLE AREA.

(B) LIN DESCRIBED THE PRISONER AS BEING SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE TO THE PCIT DIA REPRESENTATIVE (MR. COUTURE IS 5'9" 190 LBS, LIGHT BROWN HAIR, FAIR COMPLEXION). HE ESTIMATED HIS AGE TO BE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 35 TO 40 YEARS OLD. LIN ADDED THAT THIS WAS ONLY A ROUGH APPROXIMATION SINCE HE FINDS THE AGE OF OCCIDENTALS HARD TO ESTIMATE BECAUSE THEY ALL SEEM TO HAVE, BASICALLY, THE SAME APPEARANCE TO HIM. HE DID NOT NOTICE ANYTHING DISTINCTIVE ABOUT THIS INDIVIDUAL SUCH AS SCARS, TATTOOS, BIRTH MARKS, OR GLASSES. HE DID NOT SEE THE AMERICAN WITH HIS SHIRT OFF SO WAS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON ANY TATTOOS OR MARKS WHICH HE MAY HAVE HAD ON HIS ARMS OR UPPER BODY. HIS HAIR WAS CUT SHORT, BUT LIN HAS ONLY ABLE TO VIEW A SMALL PORTION OF SCALP DUE TO THE BANDAGING. THE AMERICAN WORE A STANDARD U.S. MILITARY COMBAT UNIFORM WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A LONG SLEEVED GREEN SHIRT WITH TWO BREAST POCKETS, BUTTONS DOWN THE FRONT, MATCHING PANTS AND "AMERICAN" BOOTS. HE DID NOT SEE A WRISTWATCH OR JEWELRY OF ANY KIND NOR DID HE VIEW THE AMERICAN'S IDENTIFICATION TAGS. LIN RECALLED THE AMERICAN CARRIED SOME TYPE OF BLACK COLORED BAG, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS BEING MORE LIKE A SATCHEL THAN A RUCKSACK, BUT HE COULD NOT REMEMBER WHAT IT CONTAINED.

(C) SINCE LIN WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THE AMERICAN'S APPEARANCE, HE HAS SHOWN A RANDOMLY ARRANGED SERIES OF SIX PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH INCLUDED THE PHOTOGRAPH ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 1112. LIN STUDIED EACH PHOTOGRAPH VERY CAREFULLY, BUT AFTER NEARLY FOUR MINUTES, HE REPEATED HIS EARLIER ASSERTION THAT THE PCIT DIA REPRESENTATIVE HAS CLOSER IN APPEARANCE TO THIS AMERICAN THAN ANY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS.

(2) ON 21 AUGUST 1993, THE PCIT INTERVIEWED MR. A VIEN (A VIEEN), A 47 YOA RESIDENT OF DAK MY VILLAGE, KONTUM CITY. VIEN, CURRENTLY RETIRED, SUPPLIED THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

(A) IN 1961, AT THE AGE OF 14, VIEN BEGAN HIS MILITARY CAREER, SERVING WITH THE 1ST ARTILLERY BN, A SUBORDINATE OF THE PAVN B3 FRONT. IN 1964, HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE 631ST COMBINED INFANTRY/ARTILLERY BN, WHERE HE STAYED UNTIL 1969. DURING HIS TIME WITH THE 631ST BN, VIEN SERVED AS A SQUAD LEADER, DEPUTY PLATOON LEADER, AND, BY 1967, A PLATOON LEADER. IN LATE 1968 OR EARLY 1969, HE BECAME AN ASSISTANT COMPANY COMMANDER FOR THE 1ST CO, 631ST BN. IN 1969, VIEN ENROLLED IN A POLITICAL STUDIES CLASS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PAVN B3 FRONT. IN LATE 1969 OR EARLY 1970, HE WAS SENT TO SON TAY IN NORTH VIETNAM TO TEACH CAMBODIAN REVOLUTIONARIES. HE RETURNED TO THE SOUTH IN 1970 AND BECAME A COMPANY COMMANDER FOR THE PAVN 66TH RGT, 10TH DIV AND FOUGHT AGAINST THE LON NOL REGIME IN CAMBODIA. IN 1971, VIEN WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 304TH LOCAL FORCES BN, KONTUM PROVINCE. THIS WAS HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT IN KONTUM PROVINCE, WITH ALL HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE HAVING BEEN IN THE PLEIKU AREA. IN 1973, VIEN WAS AGAIN SENT NORTH FOR POLITICAL TRAINING. HE REMAINED IN THE NORTH UNTIL 1975, WHEN HE VOLUNTEERED TO REJOIN THE FORCES IN THE SOUTH FOR THE FINAL OFFENSIVE. HE WAS ASSIGNED TO A STAFF POSITION WITH THE

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 004 \*\*\*\*\*/  
PAVN 1ST CORPS. FOLLOWING THE LIBERATION OF DANANG, HE REQUESTED A TRANSFER BACK TO THE 3RD CORPS. FROM THERE HE CONTINUED SOUTH AND TOOK PART IN THE FIGHTING IN TAY NINH AND THE SUBSEQUENT LIBERATION OF SAIGON. IN 1976, HE WAS SENT BACK TO HANOI TO CONTINUE HIS STUDIES. UPON COMPLETION HE HAS OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL ABROAD FOR FURTHER STUDY, BUT HE REQUESTED AND WAS GRANTED PERMISSION TO RETURN TO THE SOUTH. UPON HIS RETURN, VIEN BECAME THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE INDOCTRINATION BRANCH, PAVN 3RD CORPS. HE REMAINED IN THIS POSITION UNTIL 1984 WHEN HE RETIRED.

(B) VIEN PARTICIPATED IN NUMEROUS CLASHES WITH U.S. AND ARVN UNITS, ESPECIALLY DURING THE 1967-1968 TIME FRAME. DURING THIS PERIOD, HE RECALLED HEARING OVER SOUTH VIETNAMESE RADIO THAT THERE WERE 8,000 U.S. TROOPS STATIONED WITHIN HIS AREA OF OPERATIONS. SINCE U.S. GROUND FORCES WERE ALWAYS HEAVILY SUPPORTED, VIEN'S UNITS EMPLOYED HIT AND RUN TACTICS TO AVOID BEING ANNIHILATED BY CLOSE AIR SUPPORT, ARTILLERY, OR B-52 STRIKES. DUE TO THESE TACTICS, VIEN COULD ONLY RECALL ONE INSTANCE IN WHICH HE OBSERVED THE BODY OF AN AMERICAN LEFT BEHIND ON THE BATTLEFIELD. HE COULD NOT REMEMBER THE DATE OF THIS SIGHTING, BUT DID NOTE THAT IT OCCURRED AT PLEI ME (2A1504), CHU PRONG DISTRICT. DURING HIS TENURE WITH THE 304TH LOCAL FORCES



IN KONTUM PROVINCE, VIEN NEVER ENCOUNTERED ANY AMERICAN UNITS AND ONLY SAW ACTION AGAINST ARVN FORCES.

(C) SOMETIME DURING 1967 OR 1968, PRIOR TO THE TET OFFENSIVE, VIEN'S UNIT CAPTURED AN AMERICAN, ALONG WITH THREE ARVN SOLDIERS, NEAR YA KHUON (EXACT LOCATION UNKNOWN) VILLAGE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PLEIKU. THE AMERICAN HAD ENTERED THE VILLAGE TO STEAL A FEW PIGS WHICH HE PLANNED TO COOK AND SERVE AT A PARTY HE HAD ARRANGED TO CELEBRATE HIS GIRLFRIEND'S PREGNANCY. VIEN'S UNIT SET UP A ROADBLOCK ALONG ROUTE 14 AND CAPTURED THE FOUR AS THEY RETURNED FROM THE VILLAGE IN A JEEP.

(D) VIEN DESCRIBED THE AMERICAN AS A CAUCASIAN, APPROXIMATELY 1.65 METERS TALL AND AROUND 27 OR 28 YOA. HE RECALLED SEEING THE AMERICAN'S IDENTIFICATION CARD BUT WAS UNABLE TO RECALL ANY INFORMATION FROM IT. THE AMERICAN WAS ABLE TO CONVERSE IN BASIC VIETNAMESE BUT THIS ABILITY WAS LIMITED TO ASKING FOR FOOD, WATER, AND CIGARETTES. VIEN'S UNIT HELD THE AMERICAN FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH BEFORE HE HAS TURNED OVER TO PAVN B3 FRONT AUTHORITIES. VIEN NEVER HEARD ANYTHING REGARDING THE SUBSEQUENT FATE OF THIS PW.

(E) VIEN WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY OF THE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE 304TH BN THAT MAY HAVE BEEN WITH THIS UNIT DURING 1968. HE EXPLAINED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF THE LONG TIME VETERANS OF THE 304TH WERE KILLED DURING 1968 AND 1969, AND BY THE TIME HE JOINED THE UNIT IN 1971, REPLACEMENTS FROM PAVN MAIN FORCE UNITS HAD ARRIVED. HE RECALLED AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED CUONG (TELEGRAPHIC SPELLING UNKNOWN) WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE PAVN 66TH RGT DURING THE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED AGAINST DAK TO, BUT VIEN WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE HIS FAMILY NAME OR CURRENT LOCATION OTHER THAN TO SAY HE WAS ORIGINALLY FROM THE NORTH.

(F) ALTHOUGH VIEN WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION RELATED TO CASE 1112, HE VOWED TO RAISE THIS ISSUE AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE KONTUM VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION AND REPORT ANY INFORMATION TO THE PROVINCE TASK TEAM.

(3) ON 18 AUG 93, THE PCIT INTERVIEWED NGUYEN THIEN LUONG IN A CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE THANG LOT HOTEL IN BAN ME THUOT CITY, DAC LAC PROVINCE. LUONG, 60 YOA, CURRENTLY RESIDES AT HOUSE 5A, PHAN CHU TRINH STREET IN TRUNG CO DISTRICT, BAN ME THUOT CITY. HE RETIRED FROM THE MILITARY IN 1987 AND CURRENTLY RUNS THE PROVINCE

VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION OFFICE. LUONG PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING:

(A) LUONG BEGAN HIS MILITARY CAREER AT THE AGE OF 14, SERVING WITH THE 308TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN LAOS. IN 1964, HE FIRST MOVED INTO THE CENTRAL

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 005 \*\*\*\*\*/  
HIGHLANDS AND SERVED WITH AN ELEMENT OF THE 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION. FROM 1966 THROUGH 1970, LUONG WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 95TH RGT, 10TH INFANTRY DIVISION. IN 1970, HE WAS REASSIGNED TO THE "WESTERN SECTOR" HEADQUARTERS AND THEN WENT ON TO BECOME THE DIRECTOR OF THE HISTORICAL SECTION FOR THE POLITICAL DIRECTORATE OF THE PAVN 3RD CORPS IN 1975. IN 1982, HE WAS REASSIGNED TO THE DAC LAC AREA, WHERE HE LATER RETIRED IN 1987.

(B) LUONG EXPLAINED THAT DURING HIS TENURE WITH THE 95TH RGT, BOTH THE 95TH'S AND THE 66TH'S AREAS OF OPERATIONS WERE CENTERED IN THE GIA LAI-KONTUM AND MANG GIA PASS AREAS. HE ADDED THAT TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 95TH RGT WERE INVOLVED IN A WELL KNOWN BATTLE WITH ELEMENTS OF THE U.S. 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE ON HILL 875.

(C) THROUGHOUT HIS ENTIRE WARTIME EXPERIENCE, LUONG NEVER SAW OR HEARD ABOUT ANY AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR. HE ALSO CLAIMED NEVER TO HAVE WITNESSED ANY AMERICAN CASUALTIES LEFT BEHIND ON THE BATTLE FIELD. HE DESCRIBED THE TACTICS USED BY BATTALIONS OF THE 95TH RGT AS HIT AND RUN, WITH ENGAGEMENTS NORMALLY LASTING ONLY TEN TO FIFTEEN MINUTES. THESE TACTICS WERE FREQUENTLY EMPLOYED DURING AMBUSHES CARRIED OUT AGAINST CONVOYS TRAVELING THROUGH THE MANG GIA PASS. SINCE THE U.S. ALWAYS USED AIR POWER AND ARTILLERY TO SUPPORT UNITS WHICH CAME UNDER FIRE, THE VIETNAMESE HAD TO CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS AND THEN IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW. IN CASES WHERE THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR RETREAT, LUONG'S FORCES WOULD MOVE IN CLOSE TO THE U.S. POSITION UNDER ATTACK TO TRY AND AVOID THE AIR STRIKES AND ARTILLERY.

(D) LUONG CONDUCTED RESEARCH FOR THE BOOK "THE PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES OF THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS DURING THE WAR OF NATIONAL SALVATION AGAINST THE AMERICANS" FROM 1976 TO 1978 WHILE ASSIGNED TO THE PAVN 3RD CORPS HISTORICAL SECTION. HE INTERVIEWED A LARGE NUMBER OF WAR VETERANS TO GATHER THIS INFORMATION AND RECALLED THAT OCCASIONALLY AN INDIVIDUAL WOULD BRING ALONG AN OLD NOTEBOOK OR DIARY TO THE INTERVIEW SESSION TO USE FOR REFERENCE. LUONG TOOK POSSESSION OF SOME OF

THIS PERSONAL REFERENCE MATERIAL, EXPLOITED THE INFORMATION HE CONSIDERED TO BE APPLICABLE, AND THEN DISPOSED OF IT. HE WAS UNABLE TO SAVE THESE NOTEBOOKS BECAUSE, AT THAT TIME, THE 3RD CORPS WAS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN CONFLICTS ALONG THE CAMBODIAN BORDER WITH KIMER ROUGE FORCES AND HE DID NOT HAVE A PERMANENT HQ. THIS SITUATION BECAME EVEN WORSE AFTER VIETNAM INVADED CAMBODIA IN 1978. THROUGHOUT HIS RESEARCH, LUONG NEVER RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION ON AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

(E) LUONG COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON WARTIME PW CAMPS. HE STATED THAT INFORMATION OF THIS TYPE WAS MANAGED BY A SPECIAL BRANCH OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT AND HAS CONSIDERED HIGHLY SENSITIVE. HE RECALLED THE NAMES OF TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO USED TO WORK IN THE ENEMY PROSELYTING SECTION OF THE 3RD CORPS (FORMERLY THE PAVN B3 FRONT). HE IDENTIFIED THESE INDIVIDUALS AS KHUONG XUAN QUE (KHONG XUAN QUE) AND NGHIA (NFI). (NOTE: KHUONG XUAN QUE WAS INTERVIEWED BY JTF-FA ORAL HISTORY PERSONNEL ON 17 MAY 1993.) HE HAD NOT HEARD FROM EITHER OF THESE INDIVIDUALS FOR MANY YEARS, BUT RECALLED THAT THEY HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE PAVN 3RD CORPS. HE ADDED THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE PAVN 3RD CORPS, MAJOR GENERAL HO DE (HOOF DEE), FORMERLY COMMANDED THE 66TH RGT, 10TH DIV PAVN. WHILE INVESTIGATING CASES IN GIA LAI PROVINCE, PHAM TED (VNOSMP PCIT TEAM LEADER), NGUYEN THE CONG, AND MEMBERS OF THE GIA LAI PROVINCE TEAM VISITED PAVN 3RD CORPS HEADQUARTERS TO INQUIRE ABOUT POTENTIAL WITNESSES AND ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS PERTINENT TO THE PCIT MISSION, BUT 3RD CORPS OFFICIALS WERE UNABLE TO OFFER ANY ASSISTANCE WITH EITHER REQUEST.

(F) LUONG CONCLUDED HIS TESTIMONY BY STATING THAT HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF ANY AMERICANS REMAINING IN VIETNAM AFTER 1973 UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHATSOEVER. HE ADDED THAT LIFE IN VIETNAM WAS TOO DIFFICULT FOR AMERICANS TO LIVE HERE OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 006 \*\*\*\*\*/

(4) ON 19 AUGUST 1993, NGUYEN VAN MINH WAS INTERVIEWED BY A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM INTERVIEW AT THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE, NUMBER 2 LE THACH STREET, HOAN KIEM DISTRICT, HANOI. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF TSGT RONALD D. WARD, JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING (JTF-FA) ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM COORDINATOR; AND PO2 JOHN L. HARVEY, JTF-FA ANALYST/LINGUIST. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF LTC LE KY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE;

AND MR. NGUYEN VAN THIANG LOI, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. MINH SUPPLIED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(A) MINH WORKED AS A REPORTER FOR THE LIBERATION ARMY NEWSPAPER IN B3 FRONT, THE VIETNAMESE WESTERN HIGHLANDS, BETWEEN 1966 AND 1975. PRIOR TO THAT, HE TAUGHT COLLEGE LEVEL POPULAR LITERATURE IN HANOI. FROM 1977 TO 1980, HE CONTRIBUTED TO WRITING THE HISTORY OF THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS FRONT AS SENIOR EDITOR FOR THE PROJECT.

(B) AS A REPORTER FOR THE LIBERATION ARMY NEWSPAPER, MINH WAS STATIONED AT B3 FRONT HQ AND WROTE ARTICLES BASED ON OPERATIONAL BATTLEFIELD REPORTS. HE SELDOM TRAVELED TO ACTUAL BATTLEFIELD LOCATIONS AND RELATED THAT AT FRONT HQ, HE WAS REMOVED FROM THE TACTICAL FRONT AND "COULD NOT HEAR THE GUNFIRE". THE B3 FRONT COMMAND ECHELON DIRECTED OPERATIONS MAINLY BY RADIO.

(C) DURING THIS PERIOD, MINH NEITHER VISITED NOR KNEW THE LOCATION OF ANY PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS. CONCERNING PRISONERS, HE ONLY KNEW THAT, IN GENERAL, THE PAVN FOLLOWED A HUMANITARIAN PW POLICY. HE AT TIMES INCLUDED PW INFORMATION IN HIS ARTICLES, BUT HE COLLECTED THE SOURCE INFORMATION FROM OPERATIONAL REPORTS SENT FROM FIELD UNITS TO FRONT HQ. HE HAD BEEN TO B3 FRONT HOSPITAL V211 (APPROXIMATELY A DAY'S WALK FROM B3 FRONT HQ), BUT CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF A PW CAMP NEAR THAT LOCATION AND NEVER SAW FOREIGNERS THERE. MINH SAID SENIOR COLONEL KHUONG XUAN QUE, FORMER B3 FRONT PROSELYTING OFFICER WOULD KNOW ABOUT PW CAMPS BECAUSE ENEMY PROSELYTING PERSONNEL HAD REASON TO VISIT THE CAMPS. THE MAJORITY OF PAVN PERSONNEL IN B3 FRONT WERE PROHIBITED FROM GOING TO PRISON CAMPS. MINH SAID THE CAMP SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE ROUTES FOR EVACUATING PRISONERS TO THE NORTH, WAS SECRET AND UNKNOWN TO THE MAJORITY OF PAVN PERSONNEL. DURING HIS TIME IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS, HE KNEW NOTHING OF A B3 FRONT OPERATIONS LOG WHICH MIGHT HAVE CONTAINED INFORMATION ON PW'S.

(D) BEGINNING IN 1977, MINH CONDUCTED RESEARCH FOR THE BOOK "THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES IN THE ANTI-AMERICAN STRUGGLE FOR THE NATIONAL SALVATION" AT PAVN 3RD CORPS HQ IN PLEIKU, AND WAS ALLOWED LIMITED ACCESS TO THE CORPS' CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ARCHIVES. THE PROCEDURE WAS FOR HIM TO REQUEST DOCUMENTS CONCERNING A CERTAIN INCIDENT OR BATTLE, SUPPLYING THE DATE, AREA, AND OR PARTICIPATING UNITS TO THE CLERK, WHO WOULD THEN RETRIEVE THE

MATERIAL. THE CLERK USED AN INDEX OR DIRECTORY TO LOCATE THE DOCUMENTS. MINH COULD NOT ENTER THE ACTUAL DOCUMENTS STORAGE AREA, BUT WORKED IN A NEARBY ROOM. HE COULD ONLY ACCESS DOCUMENTS ONE TIME, AND HAD TO LEAVE WHATEVER NOTES HE TOOK IN THE FACILITY OR DESTROY THEM. MINH SUGGESTED THE JOINT TEAM SEEK ACCESS TO THE 3RD CORPS CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ARCHIVE TO FIND INFORMATION POSSIBLY RELATED TO UNACCOUNTED FOR U.S. PERSONNEL IN B3 FRONT. HE SAID THAT ALL THE DOCUMENTS HE USED FOR THE BOOK WERE OF OPERATIONAL NATURE AND CONTAINED VERY FEW DETAILS CONCERNING U.S. PRISONERS. IF PW'S WERE MENTIONED AT ALL, IT WAS ONLY IN TERMS OF NUMBERS OF PRISONERS CAPTURED. HE DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER TYPES OF DOCUMENTS, SUCH AS PROSELYTING DOCUMENTS, MIGHT ALSO BE IN THE ARCHIVE. HE SAID THAT THE 3RD CORPS TRANSFERRED TO THE CHINA-VIETNAM BORDER AREA IN 1979 AND THEN RETURNED TO THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IN 1985 OR 1986. HE BELIEVED IT WAS PROBABLE THAT THE CORPS HAD DESTROYED THE DOCUMENTS DURING THAT PERIOD. AT THE TIME HE DID HIS RESEARCH IN PLEIKU, THE 3RD CORPS HAD NO REGULATION GOVERNING THE DESTRUCTION OF CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE UNIT HAD SINCE ADOPTED SUCH A REGULATION.

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 007 \*\*\*\*\*/

(E) FINALLY, MINH CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. PERSONNEL, LIVING FREELY OR AGAINST THEIR WILL, IN VIETNAM SINCE 1973.

(5) ON 21 AUGUST 1993, NGUYEN DINH THAO WAS INTERVIEWED BY A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM TEAM AT THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE, NUMBER 2 LE THACH STREET, HOAN KIEM DISTRICT, HANOI. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF MR. KEITH GARY FIANAGAN, DET 2, JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING (JTF-FA) CASUALTY RESOLUTION SPECIALIST AND PO2 JOHN L. HARVEY, JTF-FA ANALYST/LINGUIST. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF LTC LE KY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND MR. NGUYEN VAN THANG LOI, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. THAO SUPPLIED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(A) THAO SAID THAT HE BECAME INVOLVED WITH THE BOOK "THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES IN THE ANTI-AMERICAN STRUGGLE FOR THE NATIONAL SALVATION," FOLLOWING THE LIBERATION OF THE SOUTH. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE TWO GENERALS AND THREE OTHER AUTHORS ASSIGNED TO WRITE THE BOOK. THE BOOK, PUBLISHED IN 1980, WAS WRITTEN FROM BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS. THAO WROTE THE PREFACE, CHAPTERS FOUR AND FIVE, AND THE CONCLUSION.

(B) THERE WERE SEVERAL SOURCES WHICH THE AUTHORS USED TO GATHER INFORMATION FOR THE BOOK. THE AUTHORS USED WESTERN NEWS SOURCES, INTERVIEWED BATTLE PARTICIPANTS AND MEDICAL WORKERS, READ THE PEOPLE'S ARMY (QUAAN DOOIJ NHAAN ZAA) AND PEOPLE'S (NHAAN ZAA) NEWSPAPERS, AS WELL AS READ MILITARY OPERATIONAL REPORTS AS SOURCES. THE MILITARY OPERATIONAL REPORTS WERE STILL CLASSIFIED AND KEPT AT THE B3 CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ARCHIVE IN NHA TRANG DURING 1977 AND 1978. THESE REPORTS CONTAINED ONLY B3 FRONT BATTLE STATISTICS, SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF TROOPS KILLED, CAPTURED, AND WOUNDED. THEY DID NOT CONTAIN THE NAMES OR ANY SPECIFIC PW INFORMATION. WHEN AT THE DOCUMENT ARCHIVE, HE WAS ALLOWED TO TAKE NOTES ABOUT THE REPORTS HE WAS READING, BUT HAD TO DESTROY THE NOTES BEFORE LEAVING. THAO OPINED THAT SOME OF THE DOCUMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN SENT TO HANOI, WHILE MOST HAVE PROBABLY BEEN DESTROYED SINCE 1978.

(C) THAO STATED THAT BY 1968, MOST AMERICAN FORCES HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS AND MANY OF THE RECORDS HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY THE TIME HE WENT TO FIND THEM IN 1977. HE ADDED THAT WESTERN NEWS SOURCES WERE PARTICULARLY VALUABLE DURING THE WAR BECAUSE OF THEIR TIMELY REPORTING OF U.S. UNIT LOCATIONS.

(D) THAO SAID HE NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET ANY AMERICAN PW'S. HE SAID THAT MOST BATTLE PARTICIPANTS AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL DID NOT SPEAK ENGLISH AND THEREFORE COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN ANY SPECIFICS ABOUT CAPTURED U.S. TROOPS. EVEN THE ESCORT PERSONNEL WHO TOOK PRISONERS FROM THE FRONT TO PW HOLDING FACILITIES WOULD NOT KNOW ANYTHING SPECIFIC ABOUT THE PRISONERS. THE ENEMY PROSELYTING PERSONNEL AT THE PW CAMPS WERE VERY SPECIALIZED AND TRAINED TO DEAL FIRST HAND WITH CAPTURED AMERICANS AND THEY WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNEW ANY SPECIFICS ABOUT THE AMERICAN PW'S. THAO WAS UNAWARE IF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING CADRE KEPT RECORDS, BUT IF ANYONE DID KEEP PW RECORDS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THEM.

(E) ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. PW'S HELD IN B3 FRONT, THAO SAID THAT HE KNOWS TAKING PRISONERS CREATED MANY DIFFICULTIES FOR VIETNAMESE TROOPS. THE AMERICAN PRISONERS DID NOT MOVE WELL IN THE JUNGLE, CREATING UNSAFE SITUATIONS FOR THE VIETNAMESE, ESPECIALLY DURING B-52 STRIKES. HE ALSO SAID THAT FEEDING AND CLOTHING THE PRISONER WAS TOO DIFFICULT AND COSTLY FOR MANY OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) UNITS.



(F) THAO RECALLED SEEING A MOVIE ABOUT AMERICAN PW'S AT CHRISTMAS TIME SOMETIME DURING THE WAR, IN WHICH PRISONERS SANG CHRISTMAS SONGS AND MADE PRESENTS FOR EACH OTHER. HE SAID THAT KHUONG XUAN QUE,

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 008 \*\*\*\*\*/  
A CADRE OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE, A MAN NAMED THU (NFI), AND SEVERAL OTHERS ORGANIZED THE PARTY FOR THE PW'S.

(G) THAO SAID THAT THE U.S. WAS VERY GOOD AT RECOVERING THE BODIES OF LOST SOLDIERS DURING THE WAR, BUT THERE IS PROBABLY VERY LITTLE CHANCE OF FINDING REMAINS OF U.S. SERVICEMEN NOW. HE CITED THE CHANGES IN THE WESTERN HIGHLAND'S TERRAIN BECAUSE OF SEVERE WEATHER, HEAVY U.S. BOMBING DURING THE WAR, AND A LACK OF RECORDS AND WITNESSES AFTER 25 YEARS AS REASONS FOR THIS.

(6) ON 17 MAY 1993, A JOINT ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED REQUESTED SOURCE KHUONG XUAN QUE, A 51 YOA HANOI RESIDENT AND FORMER B3 FRONT ENEMY PROSELYTING CADRE FROM 1965 UNTIL 1973. THE TEAM MET AT THE ANTE-BUILDING MEETING ROOM OF THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE, 2 LE THACH STREET, HOAN KIEM DISTRICT, HANOI TO INTERVIEW QUE. HE PROVIDED NO INFORMATION CONCERNING CASE 1112. HIS STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING SEVERAL UNACCOUNTED FOR AMERICANS IN B3 FRONT WERE VAGUE AND AT TIMES CONFLICTING. THOUGH DURING THE COURSE OF HIS ENEMY PROSELYTING DUTIES, HE FREQUENTED B3 FRONT PW CAMPS AND HOLDING FACILITIES, HE PROVIDED NO INFORMATION ON CAMP DESIGNATORS OR LOCATIONS. NEITHER COULD HE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE DISPOSITION OF WARTIME PW RECORDS. (FOR A COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF KHUONG XUAN QUE'S STATEMENTS, SEE ORAL HISTORY REPORT OF INTERVIEW, 15 JUNE 1993.)

#### 4. PCIT COMMENTS:

A. COOPERATION: THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OFFERED BY KONTUM PROVINCE OFFICIALS WAS OUTSTANDING. FOLLOWING THE INITIAL MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE PCIT, A DETAILED PLAN HAS ESTABLISHED IN ORDER TO BEST MAKE USE OF TIME AVAILABLE TO INTERVIEWERS AND PROVINCE TEAM IN ORDER TO TRAVEL CONSIDERABLE DISTANCES TO LOCATE AND BRING WITNESSES IN TO KONTUM CITY. THIS PLAN ENSURED OPERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN A TIMELY AND WELL ORGANIZED MANNER AND ENHANCED PREPARATION FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW. MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE TEAM TRAVELLED HUNDREDS OF KILOMETERS AND SPENT NUMEROUS HOURS EACH DAY

SEARCHING FOR AND PICKING UP WITNESSES FOR INTERVIEW.

#### B. WITNESS RELIABILITY

(1) AMA LIN: ALTHOUGH THIS WAS LIN'S THIRD APPEARANCE BEFORE A JOINT U.S./VIETNAMESE INVESTIGATION TEAM, HE REMAINED CORDIAL AND INSISTED HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH AS MANY JOINT TEAMS AS NECESSARY TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING THIS HUMANITARIAN ISSUE. HIS TESTIMONY CLOSELY PARALLELED THE STATEMENTS HE PROVIDED DURING THESE EARLIER INTERVIEWS.

(2) A VIEN: VIEN WAS DIRECT AND COOPERATIVE AND SEEMED EAGER TO HELP. HE WILLINGLY ANSWERED TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, ALL QUESTIONS ASKED OF HIM. HIS DETAILED RECOLLECTION OF HIS PAST SERVICE HELPED TO ESTABLISH THAT HE HAS NOT IN THE AREA WHERE CASE 1112 OCCURRED AT THE TIME THIS INCIDENT TOOK PLACE.

(3) NGUYEN THIEN LUONG: LUONG WAS COOPERATIVE AND MORE THAN WILLING TO RELATE ANY INFORMATION HE COULD. ALTHOUGH HE WAS QUITE TALKATIVE AND HIS STATEMENTS APPEARED TO BE EXTREMELY OPEN AND SINCERE, HE COULD OFFER NO INFORMATION ON CASE 1112 OR ANY OTHER CASES BEING INVESTIGATED IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS.

(4) NGUYEN VAN MINH: MINH WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD IN HIS STATEMENTS AND OFFERED INFORMATION AND OPINIONS IN A CANDID, ANIMATED MANNER. THE U.S. INTERVIEW TEAM DETECTED NO SIGNS OF COACHING OR SCRIPTING. ASSESS THIS SOURCE'S RELIABILITY TO BE GOOD.

(5) NGUYEN DINH THAO: THOUGH THAO PROVIDED NO INFORMATION USEFUL TO THE U.S. PW/MIA ISSUE, HIS STATEMENTS WERE STRAIGHTFORWARD AND LOGICAL. HE SHOWED NO SIGNS OF COACHING. ASSESS THIS SOURCE'S RELIABILITY TO BE GOOD.

(6) KHUONG XUAN QUE: QUE HAD NO INFORMATION

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 009 \*\*\*\*\*/  
RELATING TO CASE 1112. THE INFORMATION HE DID PROVIDE IS SUSPECT DUE TO CONTRADICTIONS IN THE STATEMENTS.

C. THIS WAS THE THIRD INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1112. BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THIS PCIT INVESTIGATION AND THE PREVIOUS EFFORTS, THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS ARE OFFERED:

(1) NO ARCHIVAL RECORDS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE WERE LOCATED.

(2) NONE OF THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM FIVE OF THE SIX WITNESSES HAS IN ANY WAY ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 1112. THE SIXTH WITNESS, AMA LIN, PROVIDED INFORMATION WHICH WAS CONSISTENT WITH HIS PREVIOUS TWO INTERVIEWS AND ADDED NOTHING WHICH COULD ASSIST IN DETERMINING FATE. THIS INFORMATION HAS NEVER BEEN POSITIVELY ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 1112.

(3) THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY A VIETNAMESE REGARDING THE CAPTURE OF ONE AMERICAN AND THREE ARVN ON ROUTE 14 NEAR PLEIKU PRIOR TO THE 1968 TET OFFENSIVE IS PROBABLY ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0937 BASED ON DATE, LOCATION, AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THIS INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO CONFIRM OR REFUTE THIS.

(4) THERE IS NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THIS CASE TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION.

ADMIN  
BT

#5790

NNNN

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 15 DECEMBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1118-0-01 (ACCNO 5806) Status: (N) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
Name: TRIVELPIECE, STEVE MAURICE Date Status assigned: 11 Jul 1968

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	\$
Service	ARMY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	O #
Grade	E3	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	#
SSAN		Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	#
Serial No	DATA	Height	72 in / 1.83 mtrs	Weapon No	#
Birth date	8 Oct 1948	Weight	175 lb / 79.3 kg	Duty pos	UNKNOWN
Home State	CALIFORNIA	Religion	CATHOLIC	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: GROUND SITE  
UTM: 48PXS575400  
Lat/Long: 101838N / 1062619E  
Country: SOUTH VIETNAM  
Military Region: 4  
Mission Province: BEN TRE  
(formerly): KIEN HOA  
Mission District: CHAU THANH  
Mission Date: 4 Apr 1968  
Mission Category: 3  
Local Analysis: Unknown location.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Sep 93  
Investigations: Oct 93  
Surveys: Oct 93  
Vessey Case: NO  
Case type: GROUND SITE - INLAND WATER

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type:	BOAT	Serial:	\$
Crash Type:	None	Engine Type:	
Call Sign:	\$	1 Serial:	
Year:	\$	2 Serial:	

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

# = Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.  
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.  
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.